

Haverim Writing Award – Guidelines

Awards to Students: Background

As part of its mission in support of the Eastern Mennonite University Bible and Religion Department, Haverim seeks to promote fine scholarly writing by students. The Haverim Bible and Religion Writing Award, available annually, is awarded to students whose submitted essay best exemplifies the goals set forth below. A modest monetary payment to the award winners is provided as an incentive. We also consider the recognition conferred by this award as perhaps of equal or higher value to the reputation and future career of those who receive it.

Goals

Awards will be granted to one or more essays which best combine the following features:

- subject matter integrally related to issues in scholarship of the Bible, religion, philosophy, or Anabaptist-Mennonite thought
- a clearly articulated thesis or central idea
- evidence of ability to support the thesis through careful research and sound argumentation based on solid evidence
- ability to contribute fresh perspectives, whether the subject itself is old or newer
- ability to blend scholarship with creative and preferably practical applications to lived experience • ability to balance advocacy for thesis with evidence of respectful and accurate representation of viewpoints being criticized

Specifics

- Papers, not longer than twenty pages, typed, double-spaced, including notes, should be submitted to the chairperson of the EMU Bible and Religion Department.
- The award competition is primarily intended for students in the Bible and Religion department; however, by recommendation of department faculty, other students may participate.
- Style: AAR-SBL (Chicago/Turabian) preferred or must use one of the accepted research style manuals; standard English requested, with use of inclusive language.
- Three awards will normally be available each year – one each of \$300, \$200, and \$100. The number of awards and the amounts granted may be modified periodically by decision of the Haverim steering committee.
- Haverim chairperson will serve as or appoint a review team facilitator annually to guide the award process. The review team readers will normally include two Haverim committee members and two department faculty members.
- The review team will decide which awards will be granted and to whom and will report their work to the steering committee. Copies of student papers may be provided to the full steering committee upon request.
- The review team will determine awards in comparison with other papers submitted and the level of excellence sought by Haverim. The team reserves the option of not granting any or all award levels if papers do not meet acceptable criteria. They may also recognize that a paper has potential and invite the student to revise and resubmit it for consideration.

Support for publication of award-winning papers

Although Haverim is not in a position to guarantee that award-winning papers will be published, Haverim will consider providing cover letters in support of essays for award winners to include when submitting their manuscripts to potential publication outlets.